



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Friday, August 8, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety investigates fatal collision on State Route 79 *Identification of the 9 fatalities may be delayed*

On Aug. 7, 2008, at approximately 7:45 a.m., a 1998 GMC Suburban was traveling northbound on State Route 79 about 15 miles south of Florence, Arizona when, for an unknown reason, the vehicle ran off the highway running into a nearby concrete wash. The vehicle struck the wash and overturned landing on its roof. There are 9 confirmed fatalities and 10 injuries. The vehicle was carrying a total of 19 people. The injured were taken by air to hospitals in Tucson and Phoenix.

The person who investigators believe to be the driver of the vehicle survived the collision. At this time DPS cannot release his identity as investigators from the Highway Patrol Division and IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) have not had a chance to interview him.

All 9 of the individuals who died as a result of this collision are foreign nationals, therefore it may be several days before their identities can be officially released after next of kin can be located.

The cause of this collision remains under investigation although speed and driver inattention appear to be early indicators.

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